

*executive committee of
the directing council*



PAN AMERICAN
SANITARY
ORGANIZATION

*working party of
the regional committee*

WORLD
HEALTH
ORGANIZATION



24th Meeting
Santiago, Chile
22 October 1954

CE24/1 (Eng.)
31 December 1954
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

PRECIS MINUTES OF THE SINGLE PLENARY SESSION
Santiago, Chile
Friday, 22 October 1954, at 8:45 a.m.

<u>Provisional Chairman:</u>	Dr. Alberto BISSOT, Jr.	Panama
<u>Chairman:</u>	Dr. Enrique ZACARIAS ARZA	Paraguay
<u>Vice-Chairman:</u>	Dr. Frederick J. BRADY	United States
<u>Secretary:</u>	Dr. Miguel E. BUSTAMANTE	Pan American Sanitary Bureau

SUMMARY

1. Opening by the Chairman of the 23rd Meeting of the Executive Committee
2. Taking of Office by the Representatives of Colombia and Paraguay as Members of the Executive Committee
3. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman
4. Measures to Facilitate Analysis of Budgets (Document CSP14/89)
5. Measures Designed to Strengthen National Public Health Administration (Document CSP14/89)
6. Attendance of Zone Representatives at Meetings of the Executive Committee
7. Place and Date of the 25th Meeting of the Executive Committee

PRESENT:

Members:

Dr. Gerardo SEGURA	Argentina
Dr. Jorge JIMENEZ GANDICA	Colombia
Dr. Gonzalo MONTES DUQUE	
Dr. Alberto BISSOT, Jr.	Panama
Dr. Enrique ZACARIAS ARZA	Paraguay
Dr. Frederick J. BRADY	United States
Mr. William BELTON	
Dr. Fred L. SOPER (<u>ex officio</u>)	Pan American Sanitary Bureau

Members absent: BRAZIL and HAITI

Other Participants:

Observers for Member Governments:

Dr. Abraham HORWITZ B.	Chile
Dr. Amador NEGhme R.	
Dr. Félix HURTADO	Cuba
Dr. Juan ALLWOOD PAREDES	El Salvador
Dr. José ZOZAYA	México
Dr. Ricardo CAPPELETTI	Uruguay

Pan American Sanitary Bureau (PASB):

Dr. Carlos Luis GONZALEZ, Assistant Director
Mr. Harry A. HINDERER, Chief, Division of Administration

1. OPENING BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE 23RD MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Dr. BISSOT (Panama) called the 24th Meeting of the Executive Committee to order, and cordially greeted the Representatives, Observers, and the other participants.

2. TAKING OF OFFICE BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF COLOMBIA AND PARAGUAY AS MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

On behalf of the Executive Committee, the CHAIRMAN welcomed the Representatives of Colombia and Paraguay, the new Members of the Executive Committee elected by the XIV Pan American Sanitary Conference, and added that their collaboration will be most valuable to the Pan American Sanitary Bureau.

Dr. SEGURA (Argentina) expressed his pleasure at the arrival of these two Representatives, who, for the first time, will take part in directing the activities of the Organization.

Dr. MONTES DUQUE (Colombia) expressed his appreciation for the welcome received, saying that he would cooperate in every way for the best success of the work of the Executive Committee.

Dr. ZACARIAS ARZA (Paraguay) said that his country was highly honored to be represented on the Executive Committee, that it is fully aware of the responsibility it has assumed, and that it will make every effort possible to fulfill the mission entrusted to it.

3. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN

The CHAIRMAN called for nominations for the posts of Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the 24th Meeting.

Dr. SEGURA (Argentina) nominated Dr. Enrique Zacarías Arza, Minister of Public Health of Paraguay, as Chairman of the meeting.

DECISION TAKEN

The Representative of Paraguay was unanimously elected Chairman of the 24th Meeting of the Executive Committee.

The CHAIRMAN then asked for nominations for the post of Vice-Chairman.

Dr. SEGURA (Argentina) nominated Dr. Frederick J. Brady, Representative of the United States, as Vice-Chairman.

DECISION TAKEN

The Representative of the United States was unanimously elected Vice-Chairman of the 24th Meeting of the Executive Committee.

On assuming the Chair, Dr. ZACARIAS ARZA (Paraguay) said that he was accepting with deep emotion the honor shown to his country in designating him to preside at this meeting, adding that he would do everything in his power to further the success of the Committee's work.

4. MEASURES TO FACILITATE ANALYSIS OF BUDGETS
(Document CSPl4/89)

The SECRETARY read the document, which the General Committee of the XIV Conference had referred to the Executive Committee because it had been presented by the Delegation of Chile at the last session of the Conference. He read the first draft resolution contained in the document, on measures to facilitate the analysis of budgets.

Dr. SEGURA (Argentina) explained that the draft resolution had as an objective the study of the distribution, by items, of the funds assigned for the Bureau's activities. He proposed that it be accepted so that the Executive Committee, at its meeting in April 1955, would have a report on the proportionate distribution of funds, which it could then present to the next meeting of the Directing Council.

Dr. SOPER (Director, PASB) pointed out that, every time the form of presentation of the budgets and the financial reports is changed, the Bureau is forced to meet new costs. He added that the financial operations of the Bureau can be examined by the Executive Committee at any time, and that the recent budgets had included the information and details requested at previous meetings of the Committee. He said that the Bureau can study the possibility of including the requested information in the budget and can present a report to the April meeting of the Executive Committee on the expenses incurred in carrying out this procedure.

Dr. BISSOT (Panama) supported the proposal of the Representative of Argentina, and suggested that the study by the Bureau be a preliminary one and that it take into account the form of presentation of budgets followed by the WHO.

Dr. BRADY (United States) remarked that in the draft resolution no request is made for any change whatever in the budget itself.

Dr. HORWITZ (Observer, Chile) agreed with the remarks of the Representative of the United States. He pointed out that, unfortunately, the Secretariat had been unable to distribute Document CSPL4/77, which contains the information requested by his delegation on the proportionate distribution of funds. A study of the funds that the Bureau will expend, according to the 1955 and 1956 budgets, will provide the opportunity for the Executive Committee and the Directing Council to consider the future planning for the Organization. He emphasized the fact that the resolution presented does not request any change in the budget, but only an additional study that, in the future, will permit the adoption of policies that will be reflected in the budget. He believed the criterion of the Director to be somewhat exaggerated, and could not understand what difficulties or expenditures Chile's proposal would bring about, since, after all, this matter, although more precise, is somewhat similar to the Informational Statement that the Secretariat had been able to prepare for the Conference within 48 hours.

Dr. GONZALEZ (Assistant Director, PASB) reported that Document CSPL4/77, prepared in the limited time available to the Secretariat during the Conference, had been distributed on or about 17 October 1954. The request of the Delegation of Chile concerning the proportionate distribution of the funds administered by the Bureau, was included in that document.

Dr. SOPER (Director, PASB) felt that the proposal of the Delegation of Chile was a request for entirely new information. He pointed out that the Director is authorized to make transfers of funds from one budget chapter to another, when such transfers do not exceed 10%. He said that, if he understood correctly the scope of Chile's proposal, what is required is a document, similar to that of the budget, in which is set forth the proportionate distribution of funds according to planned activities. In the past, the control of the Bureau's expenditures has been the responsibility of the External Auditor. The study of the utilization of funds, in conformity with the decisions of the Executive Committee and the Council, is described in the Financial Report, which is not prepared by staff of the Bureau. He stated that if a study of the past four years is desired, plus a comparison of expenditures planned in future budgets, this would involve an additional expense to the Bureau. Moreover, the report cannot be prepared from one day to the next. He said

that the Bureau can report to the 25th Meeting of the Executive Committee on the cost of the requested study and on the manner in which it can be carried out.

Dr. HURTADO (Observer, Cuba) recommended that much care be taken in studying the draft resolution presented. The request for a financial report in which a detailed analysis of the proportionate distribution of funds is made, means a review of the finances, even though the report of the External Auditor has been approved by the Conference. He felt that the requested information had appeared in the document, though not in columns. He remarked that what should be done is to transmit the draft resolution to the 25th Meeting of the Executive Committee.

Dr. HORWITZ (Observer, Chile) stated that he would like to insist on his proposal, since he was convinced of its importance. With respect to the remarks of the Director of the Bureau, he pointed out that his proposal does not require or propose any sort of control, nor does it request an auditor's study. It is limited to a request for information, which, it was his understanding, could be provided by the staff already working for the Bureau. He reiterated that he wanted merely to know the proportionate distribution of funds according to the major activities of the Bureau. It is a simple study, but one of great significance. He felt that in six months the Bureau could very well prepare the information requested. His proposal was in no way destructive criticism, and he was not opposed to the Director's including the draft resolution on the agenda of the 25th Meeting of the Executive Committee.

Dr. SOPER (Director, PASB) said that, once the scope of the proposal was understood, he did not feel that there would be any difficulty in complying with it. He stated that, as Director of the Bureau, he had already thought of the possibility of preparing a document similar to the one proposed by the Delegation of Chile but that, once the arrangements were initiated, he had found the increase in the administrative expenses to be such that the execution of the study would not be justified.

Dr. SEGURA (Argentina) proposed that it be recommended that the Director of the Bureau prepare for the next meeting of the Executive Committee, data on the proportionate distribution of funds administered by the Bureau in its various technical and administrative activities, in such manner that this analysis will show a comparison of the expenditures of the past four years with those proposed for future programs.

DECISION TAKEN

The proposal of the Representative of Argentina was unanimously approved.

5. MEASURES DESIGNED TO STRENGTHEN NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATION (Document CSPl4/89)

The CHAIRMAN submitted for consideration the draft resolution appearing on page 3 of Document CSPl4/89.

Dr. BRADY (United States) pointed out that the draft resolution recommends to the Director the execution of programs that the Bureau has been carrying out for some time.

Dr. HORWITZ (Observer, Chile) disagreed with the comments of the Representative of the United States. The draft resolution presented requests that the Director expand the activities designed to strengthen national public health administrations. He pointed out that when the Executive Committee receives the information requested by his delegation, with respect to the proportionate distribution of funds, the reasons for proposing this other resolution would then be seen. He explained that his proposal tends toward regulating the principles that serve as a basis for the activities of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau.

Dr. SEGURA (Argentina) felt that the draft resolution reflects a general trend he had observed during the XIV Conference, and that it is related to certain problems that the Bureau should take into account. From the beginning of the Conference, opinions were expressed as to the manner in which the Bureau distributes the funds. He recalled the remarks of the Delegates of Chile, Costa Rica, and El Salvador during the Conference. The problem is of fundamental importance, since, although some countries are interested more in eradication programs, others prefer activities designed to strengthen the national public health administrations. He felt that the Bureau should seek a proportionate balance, in order to give greatest satisfaction to the greatest number of Member Governments. He proposed that the draft resolution be approved.

Dr. SOPER (Director, PASB) pointed out that, in the programs of the Bureau, the general lines laid down at previous meetings of the governing bodies had been followed. He said that the Member Countries had expressed their opinion with respect to the programs that should be carried out. There are many possibilities within the budget that was approved. The main objective of the Bureau is precisely the strengthening of the national public health administrations, but, he added, conditions

vary considerably in the different countries. The question arises as to whether this matter should be considered by the Executive Committee since, because of its nature, he felt it was a matter, incumbent on the Directing Council. He suggested that the proposal of the Delegation of Chile be included on the agenda of the next meeting of the Directing Council.

Dr. HORWITZ (Observer, Chile) said that he was not opposed to including the draft resolution on the agenda of the Directing Council.

DECISION TAKEN

It was unanimously agreed to recommend that the Director include on the draft agenda of the VIII Meeting of the Directing Council the topic "Measures Designed to Strengthen National Public Health Administration".

6. ATTENDANCE OF ZONE REPRESENTATIVES AT MEETINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Dr. SOPER (Director, PASB) recalled that the Executive Committee, at its 18th Meeting in Havana, resolved that the Zone Representatives should attend all meetings of the Executive Committee. Since that time, this has been done, and the Bureau has incurred important expenses to this end. He felt, as the background that could be mentioned shows, that the presence of the Zone Representatives is not always necessary. He therefore asked the Executive Committee whether it would not be more advisable to reverse the aforesaid decision and leave it to the discretion of the Director to call the Zone Representatives when the Executive Committee meets.

Dr. BISSOT (Panama) supported the Director's suggestion, stating that his Delegation had intended making that same proposal. For several years the Zone Representatives have been attending the Executive Committee and Directing Council meetings, and only on very rare occasions have taken part in the discussions. He felt that the presence of these officers at Executive Committee meetings incurs expenditures that could be directed toward other activities.

Dr. SEGURA (Argentina) wished to know the scope of the proposal and whether it is incumbent on the Executive Committee to reverse that decision.

Dr. SOPER (Director, PASB) affirmed that, in effect, it is incumbent on the Executive Committee, since it was the Executive Committee itself that had adopted the resolution under discussion.

Dr. ALLWOOD PAREDES (Observer, El Salvador) stated that the presence of Zone Representatives at Executive Committee meetings makes it possible to have a detailed knowledge of the activities and work of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, and to better appreciate the needs of the countries. In his opinion, the resolution in question should not be revoked.

Dr. ZOZAYA (Observer, Mexico) said that, on the basis of his long experience in collaborating in the work of the Executive Committee, he felt the presence of the Zone Representatives had been unnecessary. He added, with respect to the comments of the Observer for El Salvador, that the information required by the Executive Committee had always been provided by the Secretariat. He did not feel that the expenditure of approximately US\$4,000 required to transport such personnel was justified.

Dr. ALLWOOD PAREDES (Observer, El Salvador) said that he did not believe unjustified the expenditure incurred in providing information to the Executive Committee Members on the program needs of the countries. In his opinion, if the Zone Representatives had not been requested to give such information, it was entirely the fault of the Executive Committee itself. He recalled that the Conference had decided, at its last meeting, that the opinions of the countries should be taken into account in planning the Bureau's programs.

The CHAIRMAN put the proposal of the Representative of Panama to a vote.

DECISION TAKEN

It was agreed to abrogate paragraph two of Resolution III adopted by the Executive Committee at its 18th Meeting and to authorize the Director to use his own discretion in calling Zone Representatives for meetings of the Executive Committee.

7. PLACE AND DATE OF THE 25TH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Dr. ZOZAYA (Observer, Mexico) announced that, in the name of the Government of Mexico, he had the honor to invite the Executive Committee to hold its next meeting in Mexico City immediately prior to the Lighth World Health Assembly, which is also scheduled to meet in that city on 10 May 1955. He pointed out the advisability of fixing a date for the Executive Committee meeting not too distant from the inaugural session of the Assembly, and added that the reasons which justify the invitation of the Government of Mexico are obvious, since, on the one hand, Bureau Conference personnel can be of assistance to the Geneva personnel, and, on

the other hand, the Executive Committee meeting can serve for the Government of Mexico as a sort of "pilot project" in testing the machinery set up for the Assembly. He also stated that to hold the Executive Committee meeting in Mexico City would cost less than if it were held in Washington.

Dr. SOPER (Director, PASB) stated that a preliminary study of the question shows that to hold the meeting in Mexico will not entail additional expenses and that for his part, he saw no reason for not accepting the kind invitation of the Government of Mexico, which would permit the Bureau to offer its cooperation to both the Government and to the World Health Organization.

Dr. HURTADO (Observer, Cuba) stated that, in principle, he was not in favor of holding meetings of the governing bodies away from headquarters, where representatives have an opportunity to see how the Organization functions. Nevertheless, since this was a sister country and the circumstances were special, he wished to join with the other Members of the Executive Committee who unanimously favored holding the next meeting in Mexico.

The CHAIRMAN wished to place on record the unanimous opinion of the Members and observers attending the meeting, and to express the appreciation of the Executive Committee for the invitation extended by Dr. Zozaya, Delegate of Mexico to the XIV Pan American Sanitary Conference, on behalf of the Government of Mexico.

DECISION TAKEN

It was unanimously agreed to select Mexico City as the seat of the 25th Meeting of the Executive Committee; to request that the Government of Mexico and the Director of the PASB set, by mutual agreement, the exact date of the meeting; and to express to the Government of Mexico the Committee's appreciation of this invitation.

Dr. SOPER (Director, PASB), as a matter of information, announced that he had just received an official communication to the effect that there was a case of yellow fever in Honduras.

The CHAIRMAN again thanked those present for the honor of having been named Chairman of the 24th Meeting of the Executive Committee, and expressed the wish that the 25th Meeting would be most successful.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m.